

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of cheap, generic fluffy news produced far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. This costs money--but journalism is about the public's right to know, not about maximizing corporate profits.

Sinclair's actions are unconscionable, and a clear example of why we need to strengthen media ownership rules. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve a true review rather than a rubberstamp. License renewal, giving out control of our publicly owned airwaves, should involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.